I DON'T UNDER-STAND IT AT ALL.
I STILL SOMETIMES WONDER IF IT WAS ALL JUST A DREAM.
WHEN I THINK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY,
PARDON?
WHERE IS MOMIJI?
BUT IT WASN'T.
BECAUSE I'VE BEEN SET ABLAZE.

MY HEART IS ON FIRE
TO PROTECT MOMIJI.
ヒューリル
LIKE A MOTH FLYING INTO THE FLAME
第3話
加藤雄一
エウレカセブンAO全5巻発売中

WHERE...
IS MOMIJI?
SO BASICALLY,

WE HAVEN'T DISCOVERED ANYTHING NEW.
HER COMPOSITION, AND EVERYTHING ABOUT HER
POINT TO HER BEING JUST A DROSS.
THE ONLY DIFFERENCES ARE THAT SHE HAS THE APPEARANCE OF A HUMAN AND DOESN'T CRUMBLE INTO ASHES AFTER FIFTEEN MINUTES...
THE HELL... I GOT MY HOPES UP FOR NOTHING.
SO...

WE CAN KILL THIS THING,
RIGHT?

THIS MIGHT BECOME
OUR HOPE.
WHAAAT!?
OF COURSE NOT.
LET'S STUDY IT A BIT MORE.
YOU'RE TOO EAGER, KIRI-CHAN.
THE DROSS...
KEH!
HOPE, MY ASS.
THEY ALL GIVE ME THE CREEPS...
CRUNCH

AN INTRU-DER!?
THERE IS NO DANGER BUT PLEASE STAY ALERT
INTRUDER ALERT! SECURITY HAS BEEN NOTIFIED AND IS TAKING ACTION
HE-HEY!
THIS LOOKS FUN!!
THAT BOY IS...
SHEESH
KIRI-CHAN... IF YOU GET OUT OF HAND,
I'LL HAVE TO PUNISH YOU.

AAAAAA
HAH
ドン
THERE! GOT YOU!!
STOP STRUGGLING!!
WHERE IS MOMIJI!!?
I GOT A CARD FROM THIS GUY CALLED SHIMURA!
HE TOOK MOMIJI!!
CALM DOWN!
ANYWAY, TAKE AWAY HIS BAT FOR NOW.
HE'S NOT A THREAT WITHOUT THAT.

HE'S NOT STRONG OR ANYTHING.
HE'S JUST A KID.
A KID...
CALLING ME WEAK...
SHUT UP...
GRIP
AND CONTACT HIS GUARDIAN...
GET
OUT OF...

MY WAY!!
GAH!
NNGH
UGH

IT.. IT HAPPENED AGAIN..
IT'S LIKE POWER IS FLOWING
ギュッ
OUT OF MY RIGHT HAND...
I—I DON'T REALLY GET IT,
BUT WITH THIS, MAYBE I CAN PROTECT MOMIJI...

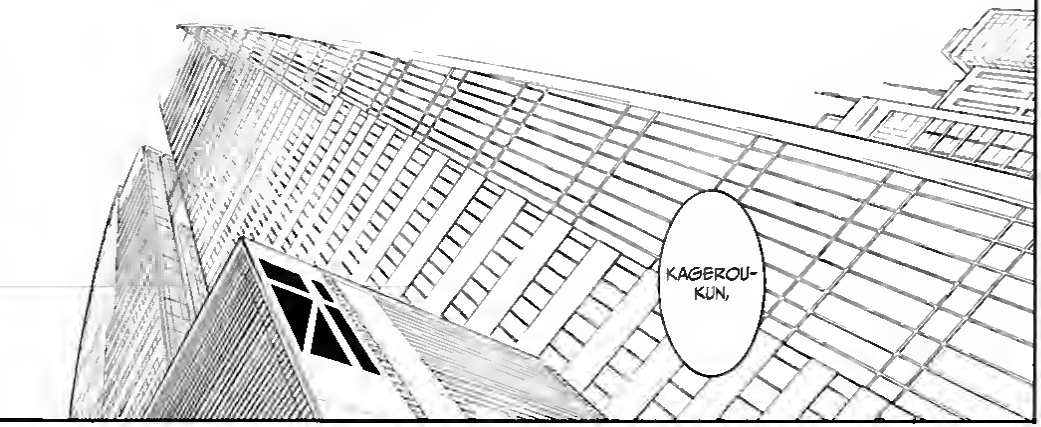
WHA-
WHAT!?
OH... THE INTRUDER
IS AN EMBER?
I SHOULD HAVE ACTUALLY AIMED FOR YOU.
WHO- WHO ARE YOU...?
WHAAAT? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

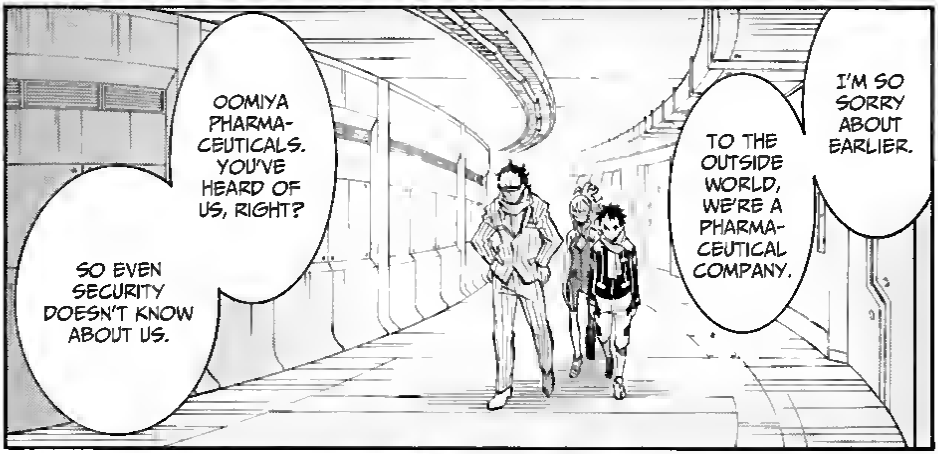
WE'RE BOTH MONSTERS,
CRUNCH
!!
AREN'T
WE!?

OW!
WHA.... WHAT...?
HUUUH? YOU'RE NOT GONNA DODGE?
IF YOU DON'T..
YOU'LL DIE, YOU KNOW?

HEY THERE, GLAD YOU MADE IT.
HEY!
WHY DID YOU STOP ME!?
YOU DID USE UP A TON OF ENERGY...
WHAT!? GEEZER!? WHY...
SEE, DIDN'T I TELL YOU YOU'D BE OUT FOR THREE DAYS?
WHAT?
IF YOU GET OUT OF HAND..
KIRI-CHAN, YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR.

I'LL HAVE TO PUNISH YOU.
I-I'M SORRY...
GOOD, GOOD! AS LONG AS YOU UNDER-STAND.
NOW... AS I WAS SAYING,
WELCOME.
I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND.

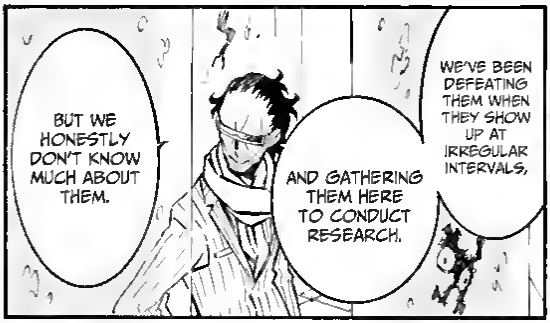

KAGEROU-KUN,


I'M SO SORRY ABOUT EARLIER.
TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, WE'RE A PHARMA-CEUTICAL COMPANY.
OOMIYA PHARMA-CEUTICALS. YOU'VE HEARD OF US, RIGHT?
SO EVEN SECURITY DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT US.

THIS IS...

BUT DON'T WORRY, THEY'RE ALRIGHT...
UM,
ENOUGH ABOUT THAT—
IT'S OKAY, ALL THE ANSWERS YOU'RE LOOKING FOR ARE IN HERE.

A DROSS RESEARCH FACILITY.


BUT WE HONESTLY DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THEM.
AND GATHERING THEM HERE TO CONDUCT RESEARCH.
WE'VE BEEN DEFEATING THEM WHEN THEY SHOW UP AT IRREGULAR INTERVALS.

DROSS ARE THOSE BLACK BALLS AND HUMAN-SHAPED MONSTERS.
YOU SAW THEM LAST TIME, RIGHT?

ANYWAY.
UM, I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT ALL THAT.

MOMIJI?
OH.
MOMIJI?
WHERE IS
WHAT?
I CAN'T GIVE THAT BACK TO YOU.
BUT I'M SO SORRY.
N-NO,
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, BUT...
OH? WAS SHE YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
THAT THING WE TOOK BACK...
IT'S AN IMPORTANT RESEARCH SAMPLE.
JUST LIKE THESE...

WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?
CALLING HER "THAT," OR "THING,"
OR "SAMPLE"...
DON'T TREAT MOMIJI...
OBJECT!!
LIKE A GOD DAMN
!?
WHAT IS THIS FEELING...?
IT FELT LIKE I DIDN'T HIT HIM AT ALL.
SHEESH..

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND A THING.
ゴゴゴ
THAT RIGHT HAND IS GOING TO KILL YOU.
YOUR RIGHT HAND WAS EATEN BY A DROSS...
DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
ドゴッ
THAT POWER OF YOURS ISN'T SOMETHING YOU SHOULD BE THROWING AROUND EVERYWHERE.
ドゴッ

AND YOU'VE BECOME AN EMBER.
ITS ENERGY IS YOUR LIFE FORCE.
THE PART THAT WAS EATEN CREATES HEAT BY BURNING LIFE FORCE ENERGY.
ONCE IT'S BEEN LIT ON FIRE, IT'LL KEEP BURNING.
THE MORE YOU DRAW FROM IT, THE STRONGER IT BURNS, BUT IT TURNS TO ASH THAT MUCH FASTER.
AND ONCE YOU'VE DRAWN THE LAST BIT OF ENERGY,

I DON'T CARE.
WE'RE ASKING YOU NOT TO USE IT FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, SO—
TO PUT IT SIMPLY, YOU'RE SHORTENING YOUR LIFE. WASTEFUL, ISN'T IT?
IT'S THE END.
DROSS... EMBER...
DEATH.. NONE OF THAT
MATTERS.
I...
RO
GE
KA

DON'T CARE,
AS LONG AS I CAN PROTECT MOMIJI!
SIGH..
THAT'S WHY I'M SAYING YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND A THING.

WHY DO YOU NEED TO PUT YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE?
THAT THING'S NOT A HUMAN ANYMORE.
WH- WHAT ARE YOU...
WELL, I DO FEEL BAD THAT YOUR GIRLFRIEND ENDED UP LIKE THAT,
BUT WE'D BE IN TROUBLE
IF YOU TOOK THAT FROM US,
SO,

!!
I HAVE TO PUNISH...
NNGH

KA
GE
!!
..MOMIJI?
RO

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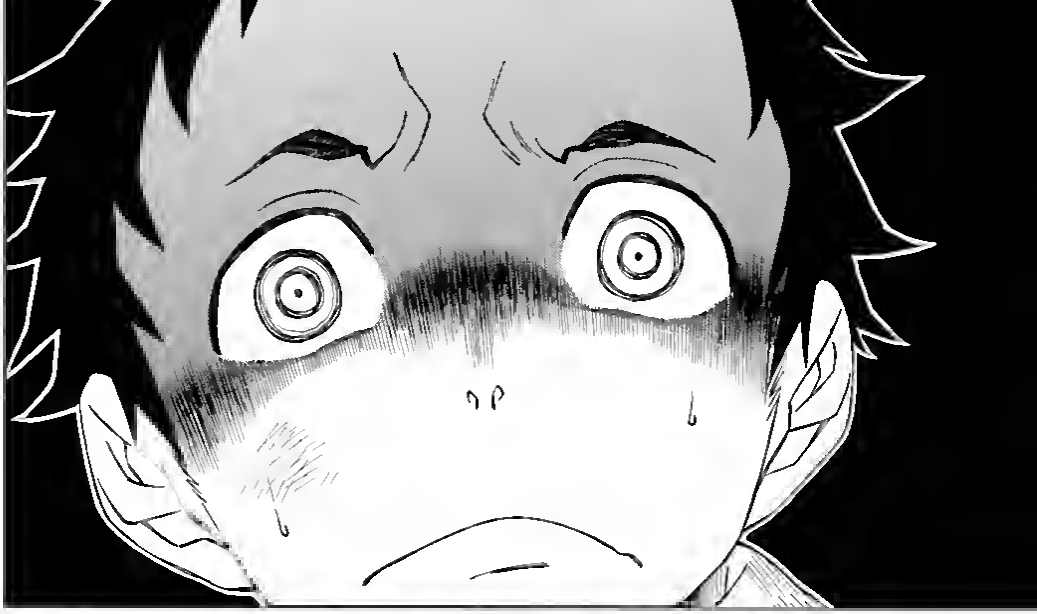
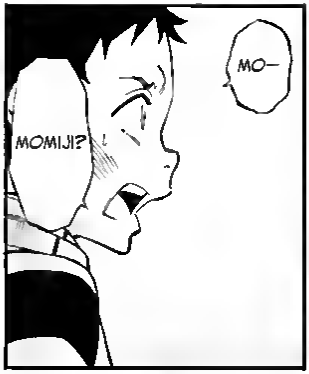
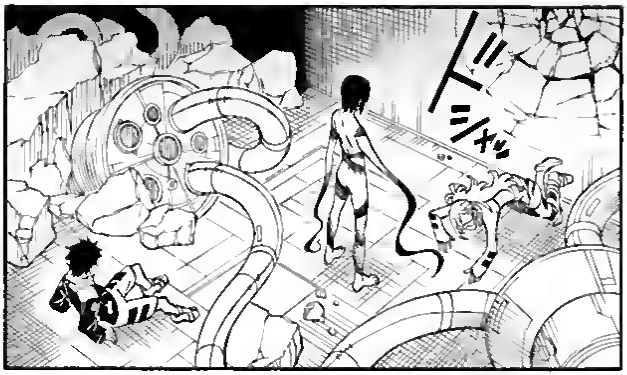



MO—
MOMIJI?



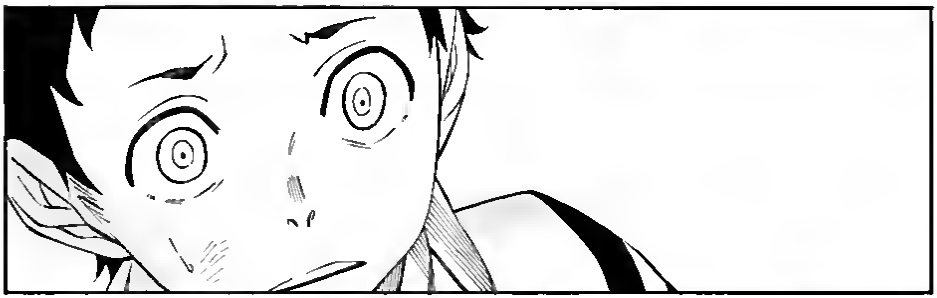
IT'S YOU, RIGHT?
MOMIJI...

MOMIJI IS RIGHT BESIDE ME
DAMN IT...
IT'S MOMIJI
WHAT AM I GETTING SCARED FOR?
LIKE...
LIKE SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN...
SHE'S ALWAYS...

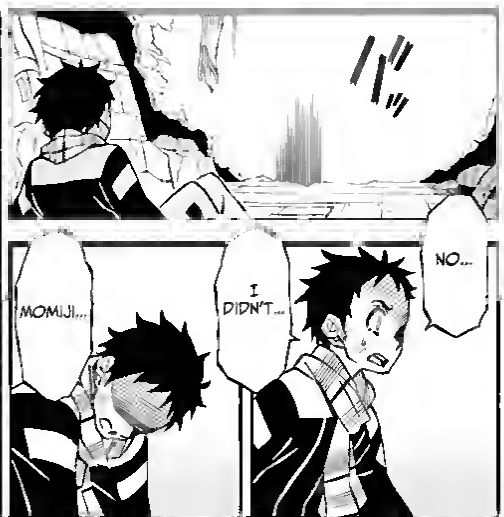
WAH!
AH
HUH!? WHY!?
NO, I...
I'M SORRY!
I JUST HIT YOUR HAND...
NO,
I...
AH
N

NO
NO

ギョル
ギョル



MY, MY...


NO...
I DIDN'T...
MOMIJI...

I DIDN'T THINK IT'D ESCAPE... IT'D BE TROUBLESOME IF SOMEONE SAW IT.
OW.
WELL,
DO YOU SEE NOW?
SHE'S A DROSS.

ENERGY SIGNATURE DETECTED FROM THE THE BLOT.
...A DROSS? MOMIJI?
LIKELIHOOD OF DROSS APPEARANCE IN AREA M-8 99%.
OH MY, THIS ISN'T GOOD.
WHY?
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO!?
WE STILL HAVE TO CHASE THE SAMPLE, TOO...
ANYWAY, I'LL LEAVE THE M-8 DROSS TO YOU TWO.
I'LL GO AFTER THE SAMPLE.
BY YOUR-SELF!?
BUT
IT COULD BE DIFFICULT TO CAPTURE IT ALIVE... IF WORST COMES TO WORST...
I'LL CAPTURE IT, EVEN IF I HAVE TO KILL IT.
BUT

I DON'T CARE!
YOU BAS...
WHAT...
WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT EVEN MEAN!?
CROSS!?
NOT A HUMAN!?
SHE'D NEVER SHAPESHIFT HER ARMS OR DESTROY THINGS!
MOMIJI WOULD NEVER HURT ANYONE!
IT'S TRUE, SHE DID CHANGE!
BUT...

MOMIJI IS STILL MOMIJI!
I DON'T CARE WHAT SHE IS, DROSS OR NOT! I'VE MADE UP MY MIND TO PROTECT HER!
WHOA, HOT!
EVEN IF I DIE,
EVEN IF I HAVE TO KILL YOU ALL,

I WON'T LET ANYONE
KILL MOMIJI!!

THEN
TRY AND STOP US.

STOP HER.
BEFORE I CAN KILL IT.
BEFORE I CAN FIND IT.
PUT YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE
AND GO AFTER HER.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME.

AAAA
AAAAAAAA
WHA-

HE...
THIS IS THE 50TH FLOOR!!
SE-SERIOUSLY!?
HEHEHEH,
HE'S SO INTEREST-ING...